

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/723,607

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

Applicant(s)

ANDRIEU ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/10/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37,39-66,179-184,186 and 187.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gerald Gray on 12/06/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 9 (Currently mended) The software application of Claim 1, further including a second personal narrative agent for providing instructions to one or more processors to create and manage one or more dynamic customized story experiences for a second user in said user-observable environment having said at least one object with which the second user may interact, the one or more processors permitting the second personal narrative agent to perform the steps of: selectively interacting with said at least one object to manipulate the environment in furtherance of the story experiences of the second user; maintaining data relating to the second user, the environment and the story experiences of the second user; and simultaneously managing each of said story experiences of said second user independent of said story experiences of said subject user, and each of which reaches its own narrative conclusion consistent with input and characteristics of the second user and any objects selected to influence said story experiences of said second user, ~~such as~~ to enable said second user to pursue individual stories independent from the stories of the first user.

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Claim 28 (Currently amended) The software application of Claim 1, further including a second personal narrative agent for providing instructions to one or more processors to create and manage one or more dynamic customized stories for a computer-controlled character in said user-observable environment having said at least one object with which the computer-controlled character may interact, the one or more processors permitting the second personal narrative agent to perform the steps of: selectively interacting with said at least one object to manipulate the environment in furtherance of the stories; maintaining data relating to the computer-controlled character, the environment and the stories of the computer-controlled character; and simultaneously managing each of said stories of said computer-controlled character independent of said stories of said first user, each of which reaches its own narrative conclusion consistent with input and characteristics of the computer-controlled character and any objects selected to influence said stories of said computer-controlled character, ~~such as~~ to enable said computer-controlled character to pursue stories independent from the stories of the first user.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-37, 39-66, 179-184 and 186-187 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Applicant has claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention which are not found in the prior art either singularly or in combination a software application including a personal narrative agent for providing instructions to one or more processors to create and manage multiple dynamic customized story experiences for a subject user in a user-observable environment having at least one object with which the subject user may interact, the one or more processors permitting the personal narrative agent to perform the steps of selectively interacting

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with said at least one object to manipulate the environment in furtherance of the story experiences; maintaining data relating to the subject user, the environment and the multiple story experiences of the subject user; and simultaneously managing each of said multiple story experiences each of which reaches its own narrative conclusion consistent with input and characteristics of the subject user and any objects selected to influence said story experiences.

These features are not found or suggested in the prior art.

The present invention is directed to selectively interacting with said at least one object to manipulate the environment in furtherance of the story experiences; maintaining data relating to the subject user, the environment and the multiple story experiences of the subject user; and simultaneously managing each of said multiple story experiences each of which reaches its own narrative conclusion consistent with input and characteristics of the subject user and any objects

selected to influence said story experiences. Each independent claim is identified the uniquely distinct features "maintaining data relating to the subject user, the environment and the multiple story experiences of the subject user; and simultaneously managing each of said multiple story experiences each of which reaches its own narrative conclusion consistent with input and characteristics of the subject user and any objects selected to influence said story experiences." The closest prior art Huard and Cheng discloses a conventional system for permitting personal narrative agent to interact with object and representing users in a virtual environment with avatars; either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render the above underline limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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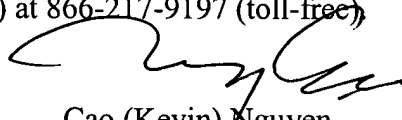
fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cao (Kevin) Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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12/06/05